DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 232 838 RC 014 256

AUTHOR	Neal, Colleen, Ed.
TITLE	Sharing Our Worlds. Native American Children Today.
INSTITUTION	United Indians of All Tribes Foundation, Seattle, Wash.
SPONS AGENCY	Department of Education, Washington, DC.
PUB DATE	80
NOTE	41p.
PUB TYPE	Guides - Classroom Use - Materials (For Learner) (051)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*American Indian Culture; American Indians; *Childhood Attitudes; Cultural Activities; Cultural Awareness; *Cultural Background; Cultural Education; Elementary Education; *Family (Sociological Unit); Food; Hawaiians; Instructional Materials; Reading Materials; *Recreation; *Values; Values Education
IDENTIFIERS	Filipinos; Portuguese People; Samoans

ABSTRACT

The book furthers cultural awareness with first person narratives describing the lives of five elementary school children who represent Native American tribes or a mix of Native American tribes with another culture. In a simple style, the children describe their activities, families, foods, recreational activities, and values, and explain their pride in their culture or cultures. Those cultures described in the book include: Filipino, Coast Salish, Gros Ventre, Assiniboine, Portuguese, Samoan, and Klallam. The large-print book is illustrated with black-and-white photographs. (SB)

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Sharing Our Worlds

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Sharing Our Worlds

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Published by UNITED INDIANS OF ALL TRIBES FOUNDATION,
a public, non-profit corporation supported by Title IV, Part B funds from
the United States Department of Education

This book was developed by the Curriculum Development Staff of
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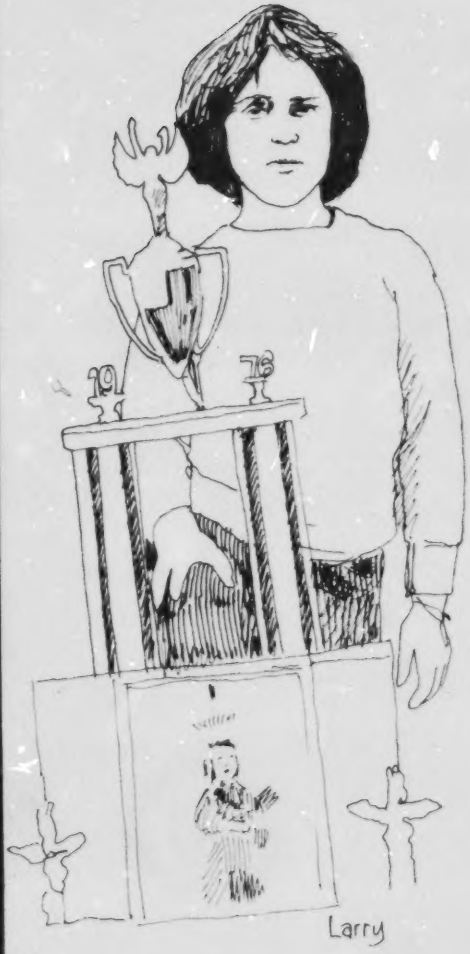
INFORMATION FOR READERS

In large cities there are many people from all over the world. In this book, we are going to talk about some of these people by looking at the activities of several children. These young people are going to talk about their families, their foods, their recreation, and their values:

1. Tim and Sunny Coulson, son and daughter of Tina Coulson.
2. Larry Bear, grandson of Alberta Bear.
3. Sesi and Ana Leonato, twin daughters of Emilio and Linda Leonato.

Values are important to everyone. Your values determine how you choose to live. Many times, values have been taught to you by adults. They may be the grownups you live with or the ones who are your teachers at school. Values are things you cannot see. For instance, honesty is a value. Do you choose to be honest or not? Sharing is also a value. Do you choose to share with others or keep everything to yourself? Whatever you choose as the most important is what you value.



In this book we want to share with you the differences in families. Families can be very different. For example, families can be small with one parent and one child, or very large with two parents, two grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, and foster children. (Foster children are children who live with a family for a short time or a long time. It depends on the reason they cannot live in their own homes with their own families. The foster family becomes their family.) Each of us has a family and they are important to us.

All of the children we will be talking to are Native American. Some of the children have another culture they want to share with you along with their Native American culture. The children come from families where one parent is Native American and the other may be Filipino, Samoan, Hawaiian, or Portuguese. We want to show you that a person may represent more than one culture.

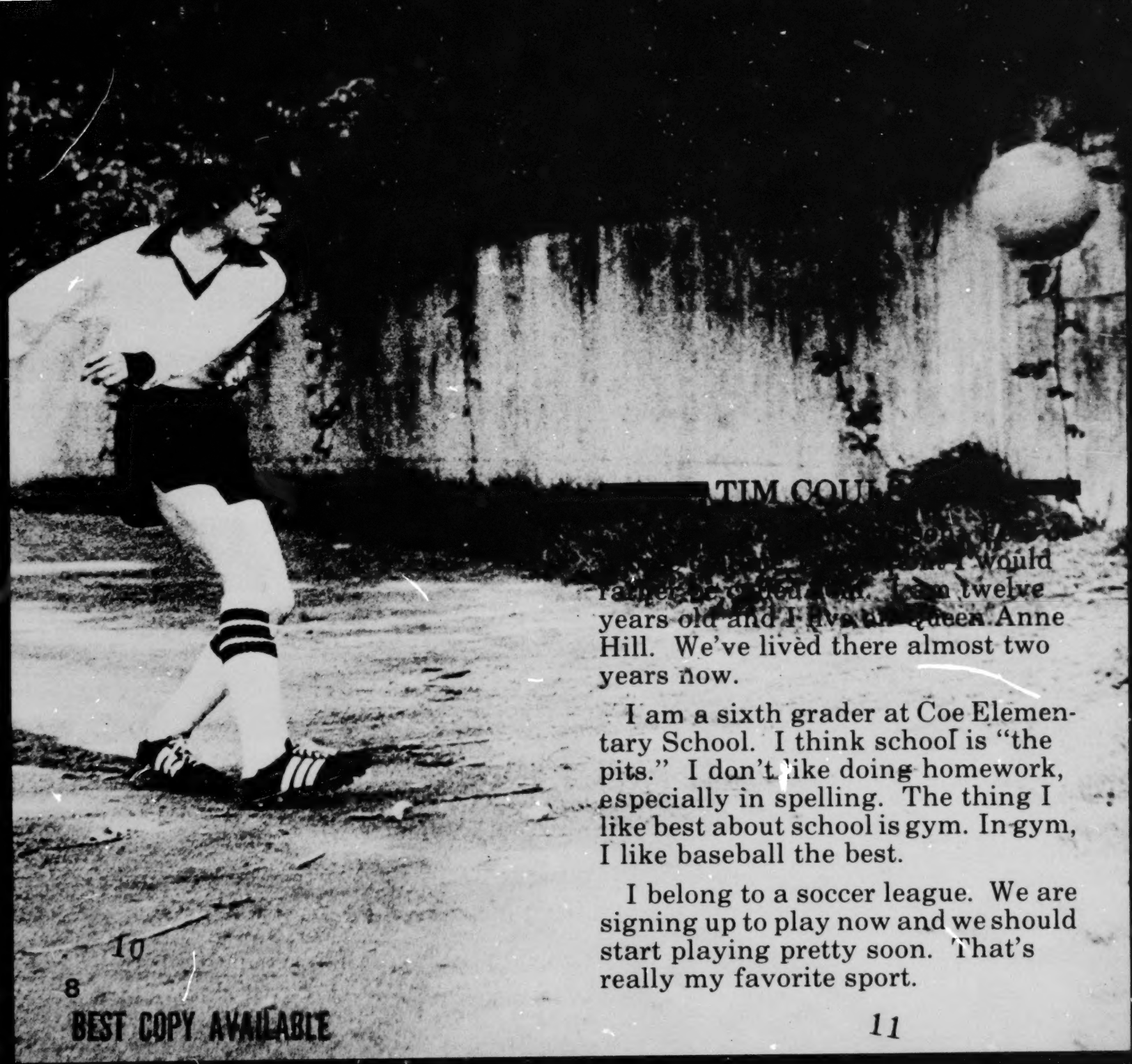
Culture, or ways of living, includes values, language, foods, clothing, music, literature, art,folklore, the land, religion, recreation, work, beliefs, education, transpor-

tation, and traditions. All of the things we have listed are part of a culture and help us to find out who we are. Culture also helps us decide how to live our lives.

People in different parts of the country do things differently. For instance, people from the South eat grits for breakfast and people from the North eat hash-brown potatoes. There are times we feel embarrassed because our skin color is different or the foods we eat are different. This is when it is important to remember that our country is made up of people from many different cultural backgrounds. There are Native Americans, Asian Americans, Mexican Americans, and Pacific Americans, to name a few. Remember there are also many people who represent cultures from Europe and Africa. The United States is rich with the cultural heritages of people from all over the world.

By sharing our cultural experiences, we will be able to appreciate our differences. It will also teach us to understand and respect one another.

Let's meet the children who are going to share with you some of the special things they do in Seattle.



TIM COU

I would
twelve
years old and I live in Queen Anne
Hill. We've lived there almost two
years now.

I am a sixth grader at Coe Elementary School. I think school is "the pits." I don't like doing homework, especially in spelling. The thing I like best about school is gym. In gym, I like baseball the best.

I belong to a soccer league. We are signing up to play now and we should start playing pretty soon. That's really my favorite sport.

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Other things I enjoy doing are riding my bike and drawing. Everyone says that I am a pretty good artist. My mom wants tc send me to someone who can teach me more about art.

When I grow up I want to be an architect. My sister, Sunny, still isn't sure what she wants to be yet. My mom wants her to be an airplane stewardess. But Sunny is afraid that the plane might crash, so she isn't sure if that is what she wants to do.

Sometimes living in the city gets too noisy for me. I would rather live in the country where it is quiet. I really like Bainbridge Island. I like to take the ferry to get there because I can play the electronic games. Sunny and I usually play them when we go across the bay.

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(right) Me and Sunny with our grandfather.
(below) Our mom, Tina.

We go to visit my grandfather. My grandfather has been in this country since 1929. That's when he came to this country from the Philippines. The Philippines are thousands of miles from us across the Pacific Ocean. He came by steamship to work and earn money. Most of the work he did was on different farms and fish canneries. It was in the late 1930's that he settled on Bainbridge Island and became a strawberry farmer.

In 1944, he met my grandmother. She came down from Chilliwack, British Columbia in Canada. She was Coast Salish from the Stalo band. She and her parents came down to pick strawberries. My grandparents got married that same summer. My mom grew up on Bainbridge Island. Her name is Tina. She has three brothers named Maurice, George, and Robert. Uncle George still lives on Bainbridge Island. Sometimes we go over there and spend the night at his house.

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We have gone to different Filipino gatherings. Many Filipinos have large celebrations for weddings, baptisms, birthdays, graduations, and other special family reasons. When I go, I like to eat the different foods. I like pancit, long rice, chicken adobo, and dinogo-an (we call it chocolate meat). I also like to eat different Indian foods that my mom cooks or that we have at Indian celebrations. My favorites are frybread, clam chowder, and salmon. I like almost all seafoods like clams, oysters, and fish. My sister doesn t. She's more fussy about what she eats than I am.

My sister, Sunny, is going to talk about some of the other things she likes to do. Most of the things she does, we do together.

My mom feels it is important that we learn about being Indian and Filipino. She never had the chance when she was growing up. This is one of the reasons it is so important to her that we learn. It is also important to me. I am proud to tell people about my cultures.

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SUNNY COULSON

Hi! My name is Sunny Coulson. I am ten years old and I have lived in Seattle for as long as I can remember. My mom said that I lived on Bainbridge Island for a little while when I was first born. Bainbridge Island is about nine miles across the water from Seattle. That's where our grandfather lives.

I am a fifth grader at Coe Elementary School. The school is just a few blocks from my house on Queen Anne Hill. School is not my favorite place to go. Gym is my favorite class.

Out of school, I like to swim, roller skate, knit, crochet, and go to the Seattle Center. The Seattle Center is a place where there are a lot of fun things to do. The Center was built in 1962 when they had the World's Fair in Seattle. When I go to the Seattle Center, I like to go on the rides. It isn't too far from our house.

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Another place I enjoy going are pow wows. A pow wow is a large social event for Indian people. There is a lot of dancing and singing. Some tribes have their celebration only once a year and it lasts for several days. Other groups of Indian people have theirs once a month or once a week. Pow wows go on throughout the year. It's really fun to watch the different dancers. Sometimes everybody dances. Sometimes there are tiny babies in their mother's arms as they dance. Often you see children dancing with their parents and grandparents. It's a fun time for families. My brother, Tim, likes to listen to the music of the drummers and the singers. Sometimes the drummers and singers are younger than we are.

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Tim, Gregory Swanson, and me interviewing an elder for the Daybreak Star Magazine.

Tim and I are student editors for the Daybreak Star Magazine. The magazine is a monthly reader of interviews, book and movie reviews, legends, recipes, games, and other writings. The teachers and students are Indian. The teacher said our magazine goes to places in Canada and the United States. Once a week, we go out to the Daybreak Star Cultural Center to write and draw pictures for different articles. We get to do a lot of other things besides writing. My favorite thing is going on field trips. We go to different places in the city and travel to different reservations and Indian cultural centers. After the trip, we write an article about it.

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Summer campers on a hike.

During the summer, we usually go to day camp at the Daybreak Star. The activity I like best at camp is swimming. It is also fun to do the arts and crafts activities like beading, making baskets, and carving soapstone. Soapstone is a soft stone and sort of feels like soap. It is easy to carve animals out of it. We made killer whales. The Native people in Alaska are famous for their soapstone carvings.

Like Tim said, mom thinks it is important for us to go to different Indian and Filipino activities. By doing this, we can learn. I'm glad because they are all fun. So, it not only makes me feel proud, but it makes me feel happy.

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LARRY ROBERT BEAR

I am Larry Robert Bear. Everyone calls me Larry. I am nine years old and I am a fourth grader at Bagley Elementary School in Seattle. In school, I like to read, to draw, to color, and even do math. At recess, I play on the equipment made of logs.

I live with my grandmother. I call her "Mom." She has been my guardian since I was only five months old. I have lived with her all that time. I have two foster sisters. Tammy is two years old and she came to live with us when she was only eleven days old. My older sister's name is Rhonda. She is a lot older and she came to live with my mom when she was two years old. Now she is married. She and her husband, Ricky, live in the apartment upstairs.

Ricky teaches me a lot of fun things. Almost every night, we practice karate together. He takes me bowling with him on Wednesday nights. On Saturday night, we sometimes go roller skating. We roller skate at Skate King in Burien. I can skate pretty good.

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Me with my mom, Tammy, my sister Rhonda and Ricky.

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I am Gros Ventre/ Assiniboine. My tribe is at Fort Belknap in Montana. Even though I live in Seattle, my mom takes me back to Montana so that we can visit our relatives. My foster sisters are Indian too. Tammy is from the same tribe that I am, but my older sister, Rhonda, is from a tribe in Canada. Our mom has made sure that we learned many Indian things.

When I go to pow wows, I dance. At the pow wows, there are contests. I can do the eagle dance, the ruffle dance, the fancy dance, the old man's style dance, and the owl dance. The owl dance is done with a girl. I really don't like to do it, but you have to dance with a girl if they ask you. That is one of the rules of pow wow dancing. When I enter the contests, I dance the best that I can. I have won trophies and money. I look forward to going to different pow wows. I have danced in pow wows in Washington, Oregon, and Montana. I have been going to them since I was fifteen months old. I used to sit and watch the people dance. I'd watch the best dancers and copy what they do. This is how I taught myself how to dance.

Different people helped make my dance outfit. A friend named Rainbow Azure made my bustles for me. My headdress was made by my cousin. My mom made my breech cloth and my shirt.

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(above) My mom helping me dress to dance at a pow-wow. (left) Dancing with a friend.

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Besides dancing, I like to drum and sing with the Thunderbird Intertribal Drummers and Singers. Ricky's father, Harold Belmont, taught me how to sing and drum. The group drums at pow wows and other Indian gatherings.

My grandmother said that she started taking us to pow wows when we were little, so we could learn about being Indian. Since we don't live on our reservation at Fort Belknap, she had to take us places where there were other Indian people. The Fort Belknap reservation is in Montana and is where the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine tribes live. A reservation is an area of public land set aside by the government for Indian people to live. Most tribes have their own reservations.

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Grandmother has taught me some things like how to do beadwork and how to cook frybread. I enjoy doing both of these things.

This summer I will be going to Fort Belknap with my family. There is going to be a special celebration where I will get my Indian name. This is important to me and my family. At the naming ceremony, there will be a give-away. A give-away is when my family gives away presents to the people who come to witness my getting my Indian name. The presents will be blankets, beadwork, carvings, money, and many other articles. I am really looking forward to it.

All of the things I have talked about are important to me. My grandmother has taught me many things. I feel good that she has taken me so many places. I am proud to be an Indian boy.

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Sesi Leonato

My name is Cecilia Maria Leonato. My nickname is Sesi. I don't know how I got my nickname. I am eleven years old and so is my sister, Ana. We are twins and our birthday is on November 17.

I am a fifth grader at Maple Elementary School on Beacon Hill in Seattle. The school is close to our house, so we walk to school everyday. I like track in school. I don't race against other kids from other schools. I just race against others from my own school. During recess at school, I usually walk around and talk to my friends. Sometimes, I play tetherball.

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Me, Brian, and Ana, with our grandparents.

After school, my sister, Ana, and my brother, Brian, and I walk to our grandmother and grandfather's house. They live close to the school. Our parents work so that's why we go there. My mom, Linda, is a secretary at the Seattle Indian Health Board. My dad, Leo, is a postman for the U.S. Post Office.

My grandmother was born in Port Angeles. She is from the Klallam tribe and is from the Lower Elwa band. Other Klallam people are from Jamestown and Little Boston. These are places in the northwest part of Washington State. My grandfather is Portuguese from Hawaii. He has lived in Seattle for a long time. My grandfather and grandmother are going to a big Hawaiian luau here in Seattle. My grandmother is the only Indian who will be dancing Hawaiian dances.

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My father is from American Samoa. He is a Samoan chief so he has to go to Samoan gatherings here in Seattle. Even though he is not in his homeland, he still remains a chief. He has taught me a few Samoan words. The only one I can think of is "talofa" which means "hello."

My mother, Linda, was born in Seattle. She has lived here most of her life. She has been doing Polynesian dances since she was ten. She used to go to the Polynesian Dance School. There she learned Hawaiian, Tahitian, Samoan, and other Polynesian dances. She graduated from the school when she was seventeen. She has taught Ana, Brian, and me to do some of the dances she learned.

(upper right) Our mom and dad.

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Dancing at a Samoan Fia Fia.

Our entire family dances and sings together. My grandparents, Aunt Rose, Uncle David, Mom, Dad, Brian, Ana, and I entertained at the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation Christmas Party. We also sang and danced together at the Samoan Festival at the Seattle Center. We had to work hard to be able to do this. It was a lot of fun.

Our family does a lot of things together. I enjoy it when we do. We have gone to culture classes to learn Indian crafts like beading and making moccasins.

All of our family activities are very important to me. I have learned many things from my grandparents, as well as my parents.

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Ana Leonato

Hi! My name is Ana, which is short for Christina. My full name is Christina Rose Leonato. Like Sesi told you, she and I are twins. I am eleven years old.

Sesi and I have only been in the same classroom once since we started school. That was last year in grade four. I like being in a different classroom from Sesi because then people don't get us mixed-up.

When I was one year old, my mom, dad, sister, and I moved to American Samoa. My grandmother said we lived there for one and a half years. I was too young to remember. We moved back to Seattle after that. I have lived in Seattle for nine years.

In school, I like to play volleyball. I play for fun. There isn't a volleyball team at school. During recess, I like to play tetherball. I'm pretty good at it, too. A game I like to play after school is flyer's up. My sister and I usually play this with two of our friends. The person who is up kicks the ball and whoever catches it gets to be up. It is their turn to kick the ball to everyone else.

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I have learned a lot about being Klallam and Samoan. My grandfather is Portuguese from Hawaii. He has taught us a lot too. Some of the things we have learned from him are the same as the things my dad taught us. Samoa and Hawaii are different groups of islands in the Pacific Ocean. Some of the things the people do are alike. Some Samoan words are the same, or are almost the same as Hawaiian words. A "muumuu" is a woman's big dress in both languages. The word for "hello" in Samoan is "talofa," in Hawaiian it's "aloha." They sound almost the same.

Samoans cook in ovens that are outside. The name of the oven is "umu." It is above the ground. Hawaiians cook outside, too. They call their oven "imu." It is an underground pit.

(left) Our grandmother teaching us how to cook salmon at Little Boston. (Above) Me doing a Samoan dance.

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My grandmother has taught me about Indian foods. My favorite foods are frybread, salmon, clams, and dried fish. One day, she took my mom, Sesi, Brian, and me out to Little Boston. She showed us how to pick salmonberry and thimbleberry sprouts. A long time ago, Indian people in this area used to eat these like we eat vegetables. That same day, she showed us how to cook trout over an open fire.

Sesi and I have learned many different kinds of dances. When we go to pow wows, we dance the round dance with everyone. My grandmother and mom usually dance, too. We learned how to do this dance by watching others do it. Now we are learning how to do Samoan and Hawaiian dances. The dances are called the Sasa, the Samoan Siva Siva, and the Hawaiian Hula. We will dance these dances at the Samoan Fia Fia celebration. It is like a Hawaiian Luau. I am really excited about it.

I enjoy learning all of these things. I feel proud when we do our dances. It is also a good feeling to know so much about my cultures.

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NOW IT'S THE READER'S TURN

You have had an opportunity to meet children from three families. These children have had a chance to share with you some of their experiences and feelings about living in the city and about their cultural heritages. All of the events they have shared with you are important to each of them. It is also important to the adults in their families. These parents and grandparents want their children to learn what it means to be Native American, Pacific American, or Asian American. By going places, being with people, and doing things that belong to their ethnic group, the children are able to know more about themselves. They also learn to have pride in who they are. The parents and grandparents do not want their children to lose this pride.

Now it is your turn to think about what is special about you. We are all part of a cultural group. Some of the groups are large and others are very small. Remember culture includes values, language, foods, clothing, music, art, recreation, and many other things. Your cultural group can be your ethnic group, your school group, your family group, or any other group to which you belong. Think of something special your group does. Share an activity that not everyone is involved in. Have your whole class do this. If you cannot think of anything, talk to an adult with whom you are very close. They might have some ideas on what you can share. It is your turn to share and feel pride in who you are.